

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2002
TOWN OF NEWSTEAD
CHURCH & JOHN STREET, AKRON, NY 14001
WATER DISTRICTS NO. 1 & NO. 3

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Town of Newstead will be annually issuing a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water standards. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact **Supervisor Gerald Summe**. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled town board meetings. The meeting schedule is available from the Town Clerk's Office, located at Church and John Street, Akron, NY 14001, or by calling 542-4573. The meetings occur on Monday nights, first and third Mondays are work sessions, second and fourth are regular Town Board meetings starting at 8PM. All meetings are open to the public.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is the Murder Creek Reservoir, which is located in the Town of Bennington, NY. The E.P Forrestel Water Treatment Plant is located adjacent to the reservoir, in the Town of Darien. We also have a connection to the Village of Corfu Water System at NYS Route 33 in Corfu. This connection is for supplemental use in case of emergency. This connection was not used for water supply in 2002. Due to a dry late summer, we were under a drought alert from September 5th until November 21st. The water is chlorinated and filtered using the coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration process.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 200 people in the town through 2 service connections.

Water District No. 1

The total water purchased by Water District No. 1 from the Village of Akron in 2002 was 3.250 million gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 3.169 million gallons. This leaves an unaccounted total of 0.081 million gallons, or 2.5% of the total water purchased. The unaccounted total is attributed to fire department activity, hydrant use, water main and village maintenance, worn and inaccurate meters, and leaks.

Water bills are mailed quarterly. The average residential water bill for Water District No.1 in 2002 was \$111.17. In District No. 1, users paid a base charge of \$43.20, for the first 8,000 gallons and \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons after that.

Water District No. 3

The total water purchased by Water District No. 3 from the Village of Akron in 2002 was 6.314 million gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 5.225 million gallons. This leaves an unaccounted total of 1.089 million gallons, or 17.2% of the total water produced. The unaccounted total is attributed to fire department activity, hydrant use, water main and village maintenance, worn and inaccurate meters, and leaks.

Water bills are mailed quarterly. The average residential water bill for Water District No.1 in 2002 was \$149.08. In District No. 3, users paid a base charge of \$31.20, for the first 8,000 gallons and \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons after that

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: [total coliform](#), [turbidity](#), [inorganic compounds](#), [nitrate](#), [nitrite](#), [lead and copper](#), [volatile organic compounds](#), [total trihalomethanes](#), and [synthetic organic compounds](#). The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Erie County Health Department at 858-7660.

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg./Max) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity ⁽¹⁾	No	Daily	High: 0.220 Low: 0.042 Avg: 0.076	NTU	N/A	TT= < 5.0 NTU	Soil Runoff
Copper	No	8/7/01	0.11 ⁽²⁾ Range: <0.02 – 0.16	mg/l	<1.3 mg/l	AL = 1.3 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	No	8/7/01	0.002 ⁽³⁾ Range: <0.001 to 0.002	mg/l	<0.015 mg/l	AL = 0.015 mg/l	Corrosion of household plumbing; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes	No	Quarterly	64.1 Avg. ⁽⁴⁾ Range: 24.8 to 91.5	mg/l	<100.0 mg/l	MCL = 100 mg/l	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than

90% of the copper values detected at your water system. In this case, ten samples were collected at your water system and the 90th percentile value was the 0.11mg/l value. The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the ten samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.

4 – This level represents the annual quarterly average calculated from data collected.

Definitions: Definitions of the chart on the previous page are described below.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. The testing performed has detected some contaminants in the water; however, these contaminants were detected at levels below those allowed by the State.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

During 2002, our system was in compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements. Security at the E.P. Forrestel Water Treatment Plant and the Akron water system is a high priority. The plant is monitored on a 24-hour basis, and plant operators are automatically notified of a problem or intrusion. The reservoir and watershed are patrolled daily on a random schedule to help ensure the security of the system. The distribution system is also monitored for any suspicious activity. In 2002, there were no problems with security issues in the system.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ♦ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ♦ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers;
- ♦ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ♦ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ♦ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ♦ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ♦ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- ♦ Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, Then check the meter after 15 minutes, If it moved, you have a leak.

WHAT WAS DONE IN 2002

The Town of Newstead continuously monitors equipment with a vigorous operation and maintenance program. The work performed during the operation and maintenance program is critical to maintaining the current quality of finished water.

IN CLOSING

We are pleased to have been able to supply our customers with high quality drinking water during the year 2002. You may be assured of our continued commitment to the preservation and improvement of this valuable resource.

If you have questions, please call the Town of Newstead Town Hall at 542-4573.